

St. Peter's Church



Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 11, 2018

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322
Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com
Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net
Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net
Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann –
stpreled@ptd.net 570-724-9789
Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;
Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310
Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS
Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360
St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085
Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047
Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023
Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216
Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175
Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706
Pat Gorda 570-724-3035
Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360
Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591
Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529
Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970
Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,
Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427
Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030
Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789
Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092
Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056
Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371
Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371
Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470
Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047
Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724- 3371
ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095
Prayer Shawl Ministry- Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/12 <i>Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/13 <i>Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Michelle Predmore (Sister, Suzanne)
Wednesday 3/14 <i>Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Gary Fermenic (Leonard & Family)
Thursday 3/15 <i>Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Tina Janeski (A Friend)
Friday 3/16 <i>Wis 2:1,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Mary Ruth Mann (Grab Family)
Saturday 3/17 <i>Jer 11:11-18; Jn 7:40-53</i>	4:15-4:00pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Jean M. Getgen (Joan Getgen)
Sunday 3/18 <i>Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45</i>	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Johanna Whitmer (Barbara Fry)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 11, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center
Carmelite Meeting – 11:30am, Parish Center

TUESDAY, March 13, 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm; Benediction 6:45pm Women's
Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, March 14, 2018

St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, March 15, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center
Penance Service – 6:30pm, Church

FRIDAY, March 16, 2018

Rectory Closed
Stations of the Cross – 3:30 & 7:00pm, Church

SUNDAY, March 18, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS –

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *Hand and Feet Warmers, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Homemade Cookies and Fudge & Personal Notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)*
A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS - This month's food pantry items are: *Pork & Beans and Canned Fruit.* A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm
Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland – 11:30am

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

March 17th/18th

5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, M.Mann, X.Tellgren
Lectors: D.Bleggi, K.Tellgren
E. Min.: B.Butler, I.Dziengowski

8:30am

Servers: B.Rudy, K.Swendrowski, A.Swendrowski
Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer
E. Min.: M.Stirnman, M.Bialas

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend instructions classes before the birth of their child. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages - In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.



Liturgical Reflection

Fourth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

This passage introduces the great King David to posterity. We first find David in the fields tending his sheep, not in royal surroundings. It is a reminder that God's ways often challenge human presumptions. God has sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons. Jesse presents seven sons, and Samuel thinks Eliab is the one. When none of the seven proves to be the chosen one, it is clear that God is the one who makes the decision. When David appears, the Lord pronounces, "This is the one." Samuel anoints David in the presence of his family to establish that David is filled with the Lord and all would know that David's power and authority came from God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 23

The "Good Shepherd" psalm is one of the most beloved passages of the Bible. The psalmist uses the very familiar image of a shepherd to identify the Lord and describe his intimate relationship with his people, the sheep of his flock. Like the shepherd, the Lord is protector, provider, and nurturer. The tender care that the Lord provides the flock becomes the mark of Jesus' own ministry generations later.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

The letter to the Ephesians is written from an understanding that Christ Jesus destroyed the power of darkness with his victory over death.

Awake, O sleeper,
rise up from the dead,
and Christ will give you
light.

The passage for the 4th Sunday of Lent is part of a section of Ephesians that outlines ethical guidelines for Jesus' followers. Though addressed to the people of Ephesus, this letter has significance for the entire body of Christ, the Church. This particular excerpt advises all to "live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness, and truth." Those who follow Christ the Light will learn that love of each other in the Lord identifies us as Christians.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41



The contrast of darkness and light underscores both the healing of the blind man and the teaching of Jesus about who is spiritually blind and who can truly see. Think about a man who has been blamed all of his life

for his own blindness. Think about his willingness to trust Jesus. Imagine him feeling the mud on his eyes and his walk to Siloam to wash. Consider his feeling of vulnerability as his parents left him on his own to explain this miracle. And think of his courage in response to the Pharisees' questions. He called Jesus a prophet whose power clearly came from God. In his final encounter with Jesus, the former blind man makes a tremendous assent to faith with the words, "I do believe, Lord." It's a statement of courage that puts the blind man at odds with the authorities of his faith community. Now he sees. His trust in Jesus filled him with courage to speak the truth. Will we have this same courage?

SCRUTINIES

The Scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all, a spiritual purpose. They are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The Scrutinies complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. They are celebrated on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. Today we pray for *Kristina Zimmerman, Scott Zimmerman, and Karon Swendrowski* as they receive the Second Scrutiny in preparation for initiation into the Catholic faith.

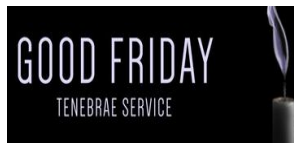
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Children's Stations of the Cross will also be held at 3:30pm. Students are invited to the parish center after school for a light snack before stations begin. The students will be chaperoned following the conclusion of stations, until parents are able to arrive. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.



TENEBRAE SERVICE

What is a Tenebrae service? The Latin word "tenebrae" means darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise may also sound symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection. Join us on Good Friday at 7:00pm for this moving service.



HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

In a Lenten message, Pope Francis stated: "In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ." In our community the Tioga County Homeless Initiative helps meet the needs of those who lack shelter. St. Peter's is assigned to staff the shelter the week of April 1st -7th, each evening from 5:00-9:00pm and to prepare meals for the residents. For more information or to volunteer please contact Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006 or David Gordon at 570-439-0005. Sign-up sheets are also located in the back of the Church.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the season memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are reminded that there are special Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions. Please place your Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

SPRING SALE



St. Peter's annual spring rummage sale will be held April 10th–April 12th. When you are spring cleaning, please consider donating household items, books and clothing. Donations can be dropped off

April 8th from 12:00-3:00pm and April 9th from 8:00am-5:00pm. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or Pat Gorda 570-724-3035. NO TVS PLEASE! We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down the sale. If you are willing to donate ANY time; please call Mary or Pat.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The Wellsboro Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church from 12:00-12:30pm, with a light lunch to follow. The theme for this year is *Fruit of the Spirit*. The schedule for this year is as follows:

March 14th – First Baptist Church - *Peace*

March 21st – Living Word Fellowship – *Joy*

CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

At various times parishioners are in need of a ride to Mass or church related events. If you need a ride or if you are able provide transportation, please call the rectory. We would like to establish a list of those who can offer a ride from time to time, so that we can match them with anyone who is in need.

SUGGESTION BOX

There is a suggestion box hanging on the near the handout table. If you have suggestions please write suggestions and place them in the box. We will empty the box from time to time and talk about the suggestions at the parish council meetings. If you would like a personal response to your suggestion, please include your name and phone number on the card.



"Let us learn to recognize that which leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, knowing that it comes from God." Pope Francis

Stewardship

Collection for March 4th: \$5,849.52

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$ 99.52

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$3,214.93

Collection for Care & Education of Priests: \$646.00

We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries

News from the Vatican

WE MUST CONVERT OUR WAY OF THINKING

Religion and faith are not "a spectacle."



Pope Francis gave this reminder during his daily morning Mass as he reflected on the readings of the day, and inviting faithful to

make a conversion of thought. He warned that while anyone can recite the Creed, if they do not do so with the Christian spirit, it is pointless.

Commenting on the first reading about Naaman the Syrian (2 Kings 5: 1-15a), the pope found that this man was waiting for the show. But God heals in another way. Beyond the conversion of works with fasting, almsgiving, penance, and conversion of feelings with compassion, the Pope encouraged a conversion of thought: not what we think, but also the way we think, the style of thinking. Do I think with the Christian style or with the pagan style?

When Jesus goes to the synagogue of Nazareth (Lk 4, 24-30), he noted that the people are initially amazed, then one of them started to say, 'But that is the carpenter's son. What does he teach us? In which university did he study that?' Francis observed that they began to exchange opinions, and their attitudes change, and they want to kill him; from admiration, from wonder, to the will to kill him. They too, wanted the show, saying to believe, they wanted to see miracles. Jesus explains: 'Amen, I say to you: no prophet finds a favorable reception in his country'.

We resist the fact that one of us can correct us. It must be someone who arrives with a show, to correct us. And religion is not a show. Faith is not a spectacle: it is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit who acts in the hearts. Thus we can recite all the Creed, even all the dogmas of the Church, but if we do not do it with the Christian spirit, it does not serve anything; it is necessary to make a conversion of thought. The way of thinking too, the way of seeing, must be converted.

Pope Francis concluded, inviting faithful to make an examination of conscience: 'With what spirit do I think? With the spirit of the Lord or with my own mind, the spirit of the community to which I belong or the small group or social class to which I belong, or the political party to which I belong? ... And to seek if I really think with the spirit of God. And ask grace to discern when I think with the spirit of the world, and when I think with the spirit of God. And ask for the grace of the conversion of thought.'



That's The Way It Is!

"The whole purpose of religion is to facilitate love and compassion, patience, tolerance, humility, and forgiveness. The purpose of all the major religious traditions is not to construct big temples on the outside, but to create temples of goodness and compassion inside, in our hearts. This is my simple religion.... No need for temples.... Your own mind, your own heart is the temple."
—The Dalai Lama.

What is the purpose of religion from the Catholic perspective? From the Catholic perspective, before religion is about anything else, it is about redemption. Many people think religion is just about doing charity. Certainly charity is part of the Catholic religion. Certainly good works, tolerance, humility, forgiveness, etc are all part of the Catholic religion. The problem is that one does not need to believe in God to do works of charity, be humble, forgive others, be tolerant, etc. One can do all that and be atheist. There are many humble, tolerant, forgiving, generous atheists.

From the Catholic perspective Jesus didn't just found a Church to go out and do charitable works, be tolerant, loving, forgiving and humble. Jesus founded the Church to bring to the world something that the world could not give: redemption from sin, life in God and immortality. If we reduce the Catholic Faith to nothing more than social justice works, we don't really have much of a Faith. What we have is the American Red Cross, the SPCA, The Clinton Foundation, The Bill Gates Foundation, etc. Those are all charitable organizations; one can be part of those charities with or without religious affiliation or belief in God. Those organizations do not claim to bring salvation or redemption to the world. They are just one of many charitable organizations that try to better the communities around them. Do not misunderstand: that does not make the organizations bad. My point is that if religion is just about tolerance, forgiveness, goodness and love, one does not need religion, one does not need God. There must be more to religion than just charitable works, tolerance, love, forgiveness, etc.

Jesus founded the Catholic Church to be visible presence of God in the world. Jesus founded the Catholic Church to be the light to the nations. We bring to the world not only works of love, charity, social justice and tolerance, we bring God Himself to the world. We bring God's Truth to the world. Through our works of charity, love, social justice, tolerance, etc, we reveal God; people encounter Christ. Ultimately, Christ founded the Catholic Church to be the instrument of salvation for the world; people who encounter the Church encounter Christ. The Church is the Sacrament of Christ. By this I mean that the Church is the outward, visible expression of the invisible presence of Christ. Christ is the Sacrament of God. By this I mean that Christ is the outward visible expression of the invisible God. Christ is salvation, Christ is redemption. The Church mediates the graces of redemption that Christ has won.

The Church does this through the Sacraments: the seven Liturgical rituals that sign and convey Grace. Each Sacrament is, in some way, a direct encounter with some aspect of Christ's ministry. Christ is working in each sacrament in a veiled way.

The Dalai Lama is correct in what he said about religion, it is just that the statement at face value is incomplete from the perspective of a Catholic. Religion should certainly be a force for peace, love and good will in the world. Before all else, however, religion should be about redemption and life in God. Redemption and life in God inform the charitable works of religion. Redemption and life in God allows God to bless people and encounter them through the adherents of the religion. This means that when we do charitable works, God is reaching out to people and revealing His love for them through us. To this end, the Catholic Church is not just one charitable organization among many. The Catholic Church is in the business of salvation. We bring salvation to the world before we bring anything else to the world. Redemption and salvation is what informs our mission. Redemption and salvation is what informs our Christian religion. Ultimately Jesus Christ is what we are about for he is salvation and he is redemption.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Penance Services, Holy Week, & Easter Sunday Schedules



~ Penance Services ~

March 11th – 3:00pm, Holy Child
March 15th – 6:30pm, St. Peter's

~ Palm Sunday – March 25th ~

8:30am – Mass begins in Parish Center
(5:00pm Mass begins in Church)

~ Chrism Mass – March 27th ~

4:00pm – St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

~ Holy Thursday – March 29th ~

6:00pm – Altar Server Practice
7:00pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30-11:00pm – Adoration

~ Good Friday – March 30th ~

11:00am – Altar Server Practice
12:10pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion
1:30pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00pm – Tenebrae

~ Holy Saturday – March 31st ~

10:00am – RCIA Practice & Retreat
11:00am – Altar Server Practice
12:00pm – Blessing of Baskets (Parish Center)
8:00pm – Easter Vigil

~ Easter Sunday – April 1st ~

8:30am & 10:30am – Easter Sunday Masses



Diocese of Scranton News

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



Celebrating His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2018 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The event includes a 2:30pm Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation should be made through your pastor before March 12, 2018.

CHRISM MASS

All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton, on Tuesday, March 27th at 4:00pm. At this Mass, priests throughout the Scranton Diocese will renew their priestly promises before Bishop Bambera and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders, will be blessed. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for and support the priests of the Diocese.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE MAY 5th

Our 4th annual "Be A Man" Catholic Men's Conference for the Scranton Diocese will be held at King's College in Wilkes Barre on Saturday, May 5th, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Based on our 2018 theme "Christ is Here, Come and See," our three nationally-known presenters will highlight various aspects of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist: Tom Peterson – founder of Catholics Come Home Inc.; Fr Michael Gaitley MIC – author of 33 Days to Morning Glory; Jesse Romero – a full-time bilingual Catholic Lay Evangelist.

- Join hundreds of like-minded Catholic men for a half-day conference celebrating the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
- Hear excellent talks that will challenge you, re-awaken your spirit, and lift you up
- Examine your priorities
- Rejuvenate your commitment to Catholic Faith, Family & Fellowship
- Get new insights for growing in holiness in your daily life
- Support, challenge and affirm your call as a son of God and brother of Christ
- Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Help you come closer to Jesus!!

We will be honored to have Scranton Bishop Joseph Bambera celebrate our closing Mass. There will be opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Various exhibitors will be present with a full array of Catholic products, as well as information concerning ministry opportunities.

St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending. Registration forms can be found on the hand out table on the side of the church.

Refresh Your Faith

The First Annual Catholic Women's Conference of the Diocese of Scranton

Saturday, June 23, 2018 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Byron Complex, The University of Scranton

Featuring:

Judy Landrieu Klein: Faith Through It All

Father Richard McAlear: Ministry of Hope and Healing

Music by "His Own"

Mass Celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera

Megan Murphy: Host

For information or to register:

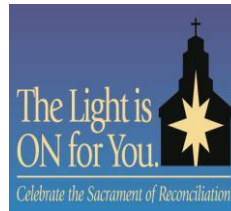
dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-womens-conference

Co-Sponsored by:



St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU



As we begin this season of Lenten preparation, each of us is invited to reflect on those choices which will bring about the new life we celebrate in Easter. For this reason, the Church invites us to experience

Lent as a time for deepened prayer, personal sacrifice, and self-giving – all so that we can be raised to new life in Christ! The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is helping to make this experience possible by arranging for a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. **Every Monday evening during Lent**, each parish throughout the Diocese of Scranton will have their —lights on! from **5:30-7:00pm** for confession so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. **Due to Fr. Bechtel responsibility for St. Thomas Parish, the schedule for St. Peter's will be March 5th & 19th.**

Please make plans to come on a Lenten Monday, and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. **"The Light Is On for You!"**

Lenten Reminders

Days of Fast and Abstinence – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. All Catholics, 18-59 years of age, are bound by Church law to fast, which means only one large meal and two smaller meals may be eaten. Catholics 14 years of age and older are required to abstain, which means no meat may be eaten.

Operation Rice Bowl - Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Proceeds benefit the poor in our own diocese and throughout the developing world. You are asked to eat one sacrificial meal each week during Lent and to give the money you saved to the Rice Bowl program. An envelope can be found in your monthly offering packet.

Easter Duty – All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to fulfill their Easter Duty. A person's Easter Duty consists of receiving Holy Communion at least once between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday as well as going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess any mortal sins.

Rediscovering the Faith

Have you been away from the Church? Are you thinking about coming back? Do you know someone who wants to come home to the Catholic Church, but is struggling with their faith? The Church wants you to know that you are a child of God, called by name, precious in his eyes and loved by him (Is. 43:1,4). The Church also wants you to know that you are missed. When one member of the Body of Christ suffers, the entire Body of the Church suffers. Resources to help you rediscover the faith and answer questions about the Church and Church teachings can be found at these websites, www.usccb.org and catholicscomehome.org. We invite you to explore these sites or contact the rectory to talk and learn more about coming home.



WE ARE FAMILY. WELCOME HOME.

www.CatholicsComeHome.org

Laetare Sunday

Today is known as Laetare Sunday. The name meaning —rejoice, comes from the first words of today's entrance antiphon, "Laetare, Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem"). The passage from Isaiah continues, "rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow," and on Laetare Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones are used instead. Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed on the altar. Traditionally, the organ was never played during Lent, except on Laetare Sunday. Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday, and it has a counterpart in Advent: Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, when purple vestments are exchanged for rose ones. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season.

Questions About Lent

Q. Why Stations of the Cross?

A. While this devotion certainly has a place in Lent, the overemphasis given to it in the past tended to distort the meaning of the season. Because the stations were prayed publicly throughout the whole season, the impression was given that Lent was primarily about commemorating the passion and death of Christ.



Vatican II strongly endorsed the use of devotions as part of Catholic spirituality, but it also called for their renewal, to harmonize them with the sacred liturgy. The liturgy of Lent focuses on the passion and death of the Lord only near the end of the season, especially with the proclamation of the Passion on Palm (Passion) Sunday and again on Good Friday. The weekday readings between the Fifth Sunday of Lent and Palm Sunday also point toward the coming Passion, so that might also be an appropriate time to pray the Stations. The earlier weeks of Lent, however, focus much more on Baptism and covenant than on the Passion.

When we do pray the Stations of the Cross, we can also connect them with the baptismal character of Lent if we place the stations themselves in the context of the whole paschal mystery. In Baptism we are plunged into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, and our baptismal commitment includes a willingness to give our life for others as Jesus did. Recalling his passion and death can remind us that we, too, may be called to suffer in order to be faithful to the call of God.

One limitation with the traditional form of the Stations is the absence of the second half of the paschal mystery. The liturgy never focuses on the death of Christ without recalling his resurrection. Some forms of the Stations of the Cross include a 15th station to recall the resurrection as an integral part of the paschal mystery.


Some contemporary forms of the Stations also make clear the link between the sufferings of Christ in the first century and the sufferings of Christ's body in the world today. Such an approach can help us to recognize and admit the ways that we have failed to live up to our baptismal mission to spread the gospel and manifest the love of Christ to those in need.

Q. Why Blessed Palms?

A. As we near the end of Lent, we celebrate Passion (Palm) Sunday. At the beginning of the liturgy, we receive palms in memory of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As a symbol of triumph, the palms point us toward Christ's resurrection and might remind us of the saints in heaven "wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands" (Rev 7:9). The white robes remind us of baptismal garments, and the palms suggest their triumph over sin and death through the waters of Baptism.



Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



**UNITED CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES, INC.**
SOCIAL MINISTRY

V.E. Boley, Ph.D. **E.D. Clemens**
Executive Director Director of Operations

Ph: (570) 827-3171
Fax: (570) 827-3063
Email: ucminc@epix.net
Website: ucministries.org

7534 Route 49
PO Box 25
Elkland, PA 16920

WALRATH & COOLIDGE


Probate & Estate Administration
Real Estate
Personal Injury



Wills • Corporate
Adoptions
Family Law

570-724-3801

R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq. • Priscilla Walrath, Esq.
Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St. • Wellsboro, PA



BAKER TILLY

Accountants and Advisors

Connect with us: bakertilly.com

Two Waln Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570 724 5000

Akiko's Floral Arts



31 East Avenue
Wellsboro

(570) 724-1509

"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be"


Shop 24/7 at www.akikos.com
Akiko, Clark & Joe Hewitt

OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

TUSSEY-MOSHER
FUNERAL HOME, LTD.


Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor

139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-4637 | TusseyMosher.com



D.T. YOUNG
APPRAISAL SERVICES

Diane T. Young, Residential Appraiser
10 Patt Road
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-662-5089



25 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-723-4263


www.popscultureshoppe.com

Games * Imagination * Fun

Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam
Consider it all joy! James 1:2

Please refer your friends and family.
Happy patients are our best referrals.

Oral & Facial Surgery
15 Meade Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-2141



Dr. Richard F. Black

Get your mortgage or home equity from the
#1 Mortgage Lender in the Northern Tier!

Apply online at firstcitizensbank.com, or
stop by our 1 Pearl Street location today!




U-HAUL
AUTHORIZED DEALER

U-Haul® Dealer
Since 2011

uhaul.com

Ken Mitchell
Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts

688 South Main Street
Mansfield, PA 16933
Business: (570) 662-2534
www.mitchellcarquest.com



BULLETIN ADVERTISING
SPACE AVAILABLE

We currently have advertising
space available in our
weekly bulletin. If you are
interested in placing an ad,
please call the rectory.

A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."



Parish Prayer List

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Susan Cleveland, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Grace Bickham, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Callie Cavanaugh, Fr. Paul Mullen, Jane Johnson, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Larry Mommico, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Claire Vargas, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, Brenden Young, Jane Usavage Johnson, Jenny Clemens, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Jack Worden, and Teagan Kohler.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Claire Vargas

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.